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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached note verbale, dated 15 August 1991, was addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations.

Annex

[Original: French]

Note verbale dated 15 August 1991 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to his note SCPC/7/91 (4-1) of 3 July 1991, has the honour to inform him as follows concerning the measures taken by the Swiss Government in order to implement paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 700 (1991):

1. In general, Swiss legislation regulates all exports of military equipment from Switzerland. As a matter of principle, our country refrains from supplying arms to States which are engaged in war or areas where a conflict may break out. Switzerland has not authorized any exports of war equipment to Iraq since 1955.

2. In the context of the Gulf crisis, immediately after the invasion of Kuwait measures were taken prohibiting all commercial and financial activities with Iraq. A system for monitoring these arrangements, which is still in effect, was set up by the Swiss Government. Exceptions to this regulation are possible, on the basis of express specific authorization, only within the framework established under Security Council resolution 661 (1990), namely for supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs.

3. Accordingly, the prohibition against the supply of military equipment or technology for the production of arms to Iraq as set out in paragraph 24 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) is being strictly implemented by Switzerland.